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starting point, the author repeated the experiments to secure a series of observations which in turn were subjected to keen analysis from the standpoint of statistical methods. While in a certain sense the search of the early investigators for a unit of experience was successful, it remained for Dr Urban to point out clearly that the assumption of such a unit as an act of judgment was susceptible to direct treatment by the method of errors. Now, the whole basis of the theory of error probability may be said to be psychological, the correction and approximation of observations in engineering, astronomy, etc., being a rectification of the judgments made by the observers. Since the author has treated very clearly some of the underlying concepts of the statistical method, his publication may be recommended to those interested in the application of these methods.

In his monograph the author presents three subjects: the results of experiments with lifted weights in which judgment was made as to relative values, some ways of applying statistical methods to the results of such observations, and a metaphysical discussion of psychological events as opposed to objective facts. By an ingenious calculation the author determines what may be called psychometric functions, pertaining to the judgments observed by him. As to how far his interpretation as to the relation between mental and objective events will prove satisfactory is a matter which cannot now be determined. Yet the point that "there is no difference between our treatment of psychological observations and the methods by which physical observations are treated, and we may say in general that the mathematical representation of empirical observations is nothing else than an idealization of experience" is, within its meaning, well taken. Unfortunately many students fail to perceive this truth with respect to the more statistical phase of anthropological work.

CLARK WISSLER.

*Kraniologische Studien an Altägyptern. Mit 14 eingedruckten Abbildungen und 4 Tafeln. Inaugural-Dissertation zur Erlangung der philosophischen Doktorwürde der Hohen philosophischen Fakultät der Universität Zürich, vorgelegt von BRUNO OETTEKING aus Hamburg. Begutachtet von Herrn Professor Dr RUDOLF MARTIN. Braunschweig: Vieweg, 1908. 90 pp.*

This study of ancient Egyptian skulls served as the author's thesis for the Ph.D. at the University of Zürich under Professor Martin. It is based on the examination and measurements of 161 mummy-heads collected in 1896 by Professor Martin, chiefly on the necropolis of Thebes, and twenty-one others, of which nineteen came from Sakkára. After

describing the material (pp. 1-11), the author takes up in turn the detailed study of the skulls (pp. 11-55) and the race-question (pp. 55-65). Among the conclusions from the craniological point of view are the following: The ancient Egyptian type is dolichocephalic-mesocephalic, with but a small (6.9 per cent.) brachicephalic element. The prominence of the occipital squama is characteristic. The face is mesoprosopic, the nose mesorrhine, the eye mesoconch. The ancient Egyptians were an orthognathic race. Taking all things into consideration their craniological type was of no extreme form, but Pruner Bey's distinction between the *fine* and the *gross* types (represented to-day in the Fellaheen and the Copts) is confirmed. The question of negroid influence upon the ancient Egyptian skull-form is still open, likewise the question in how far the gross type and the mixed form influenced by the negroid are one and the same. There seems also some evidence that with rise of civilization occurred an increase in the size of the brain (influencing the size and form of the skull), and a corresponding decrease with retrogression in culture.

Concerning questions of race, Dr Oetteking holds: 1. So far as is now known, man appeared in Egypt in the present geological period (alluvium). 2. The Egyptian people is ethnically composite. 3. Its elements are: Bushmen, Negroes, Libyans, and Hamito-Semites. 4. The influence of these races upon the Egyptian skull cannot yet be given exact craniometric expression. 5. The fundamental division into *fine* and *gross* types is demonstrable at all periods of the ethnic development of the Egyptians. 6. The average type of the ancient Egyptian resembles most the Hamito-Semitic.

A good bibliography (pp. 66-69, two columns to the page) is appended.

ALEXANDER F. CHAMBERLAIN.

*La Parole Humaine. Études de philologie nouvelle d'après une langue d'Amérique.* Par A. BERLOIN. Paris: Montréal: 1908. 221 pp.

This is a curious book. Twenty or more years ago the author came into contact with the Canadian Algonquin (the linguistic material is largely Cree and Algonquin of Cuq, with some Ojibwa), and, interested in their "Algic" speech, as he calls it, using Schoolcraft's invention, he went into the matter deeper and deeper, finding in this savage language "marks of affinity with European tongues, relations of physical and metaphysical order, and besides, curious concordances with the Bible." Pages 20-118 are occupied by an interesting sketch of the phonetics, morphol-